

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE

Worcester Agricultural Society,

OCTOBER 13, 1824;

BEING THEIR

Anniversary Cattle Show and Exhibition
of Manufactures.

—♦♦♦♦—
BY ISAAC GOODWIN, ESQ.
—♦♦♦♦—

Published by order of the Trustees.

Worcester :

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ADDRESS.

THE cultivation of the earth is the employment destined to man by his Creator. It is the occupation of all others best fitted to promote his health, by alternate rest and labour ; to preserve his virtue, by withdrawing him from the contagion of the more busy world ; and to advance his civilization, by calling him away from the scenes of violence incident to a roaming life, to the cultivation of the soft arts of peace. Hence it has been cherished by the most enlightened of all nations. It has been the source of sustenance alike to the palace and the cottage, to the king and the beggar. In reviewing the history of mankind, we find their advancement and decline in public virtue have kept concurrent progress with this art. From Babylon, from Greece and from Judea, Agriculture was transferred with every thing that served to embellish life, to Rome, where it was the theme of her statesmen and her poets. With the *decline* and *fall* of civilization in that vast empire, the vineyards and the gardens that overspread her almost illimitable domains were converted either into wastes for wild beasts, or into fields of slaughter and of war. The burdens and exactions of the lords of the soil upon the products of the tenants, were the great evils of the feudal system. Industry consequently was discouraged and extinguished. Agriculture and the arts expired ; and the melancholy train was followed by the downfall of learning and civilization. For centuries, the fields and the workshops of Europe

yielded scarcely a product but “man and steel, the soldier and his sword.” That long and dreary night had passed away, and, with the returning dawn of civilization and letters, the earth was made to yield her increase.— And the cultivation of the soil of Europe, and the proper mode of encouraging her manufactures, have for a long time been the favourite topics that have employed her statesmen and wisest scholars. Both the theory and practice of tilling her soil, now employs the ablest of her hands, the wisest of her heads, and the purest of her hearts. All the knowledge that can be derived from Chemistry and from Natural Philosophy is there daily shedding new light upon this science. And in the present period of peace, the comparatively small demand she has for our products is the best evidence that the agricultural exertions of Europe are not made in vain. Every part of that interesting continent (if we except the peninsula) is now probably making greater advances in every branch of local improvement than at any former period.

Do we not also see the beneficial results of domestic industry in every part of our own beloved nation? We witness it in the unexampled improvement of our public canals, bridges and ways; in the facilities for transportation to the most remote parts of the land; in the superior taste displayed in our public edifices and domestic dwellings; in the erection of spacious and permanent manufactories in every branch of the arts; in the general appearance of the country, “green with the dew of heaven,” and rejoicing in the labour of its inhabitants; and in the smiles of contentment that are so generally spread upon the countenances of a grateful people. Nor need we travel beyond the boundaries of our own County, to witness the rapid advances that have been made during the short period of the existence of this Society, and which furnish the best commentary upon the motives of its founders. Yes, *the spirit of improvement* has gone forth.

through our vallies and over our plains : its march upon our hill-tops is that of a giant in his strength : its course is not to be obstructed by jealousy, by ignorance, or by parsimony : it crushes beneath its feet alike the useless traditions of our predecessors, and the ridiculous theories of fanciful innovators : its progress is directed by science, by reason, and by experience ; and its footsteps may be traced by fertility and by abundance. On every side, the senses are regaled with all that is fragrant and delightful. Fields of the highest culture, orchards of bending fruit, and barns of loaded treasures salute the eye.— In our streets, the ear is greeted with the sound of the hammer, the spindle, and the loom ; and every breeze is mingled with the lowing of our vallies, and the bleating of the *flocks upon a thousand hills.*

At this sober season of the declining year, when our inordinate passions fade with the fading leaf—when our envies, our little jealousies, and local prejudices should all be buried in an overwhelming tide of thankfulness to the Giver of all Good, for the many favours so bountifully showered down upon our land—who does not feel his patriotism revived ? Who does not feel encouraged to renewed and more vigorous exertions in the great work of encouraging domestic industry ?

But let us, Fellow-Citizens, recollect that for our advantages we are not indebted to any peculiar excellence of soil or climate. A large proportion of the globe, far behind us in improvement, is more highly favoured in these particulars than our native home. No : there are, under Divine Providence, certain moral causes, *our enlightened Institutions*, that have given to our land a splendour that Nature denied it. Without these, barrenness and poverty would have still reigned in silent desolation over these fields, that have so recently been reclaimed from the wilderness. It is these causes, Citizens of the County of Worcester, that have given to so many of your sons their opulence and their elevated rank in this and

many of our sister States. It is these, that enable so many of you to see “distinguished talent and high public trust resting where your names rest.”

And while reviewing the progress of our County in Husbandry and the Arts, and with each returning year finding more abundant causes for exulting in our success, is not this anniversary a proper season to inquire whether a correspondent advance has been made in those greater objects that are equally under our control, and which are the causes of these blessings? With our increased population, and the means of doing good, have we done more towards the education of our children and youth? Have we been more liberal in the support of our public and private Schools? Are our Social Libraries increased? Have School-Books and copies of the Holy Scriptures been placed in the hands of our destitute neighbours? Are the institutions of the Lord’s day, those *Schools for children of a larger growth*, been better supported and more generally attended? Are our municipal concerns free from embarrassment, and under proper regulation? Is the standard of *public morals* more elevated?—I know that, from many of our towns, these questions would receive favourable responses; but if negligence any where exists, it peculiarly behoves the possessors of the soil to see that a remedy is provided. The character of your towns is determined by these things: your own respectability and happiness and that of your children depend upon them. The tenure of our lands is *allodial*: we ourselves hold the *fee-simple*, and are accountable to no *liege lord*. But not so the institutions of our fathers: of them we are in the line of transmission—we are barely *tenants for life*, and posterity will hold us *impeachable for waste or for alienation*.

The system of furnishing public instruction to the whole population, by a tax upon the estates, has been practised here for two centuries, and has been followed by the most happy results. It is considered by our most distinguish-

ed statesmen as “a wise and liberal system of police, by which property and life and the peace of society are best secured.” It renders unnecessary those more violent and expensive methods to which other governments have been compelled to resort, to restrain the licentious passions of their subjects. Notwithstanding the great increase of our numbers, and the varied employments that they are constantly pursuing, it is comparatively rare that the *penal code* is called to exert itself upon one of our native citizens. Who is more interested in a continuance of this state of things than the landholders of New-England, where the *meanest* labourer is far from being a *slave*, and to whose *integrity* and *moral principle* and *intelligence* we are often obliged to trust? A degree of mental cultivation is essential to the happiness of a *Farmer*, as well as a security for his rights. His occupation is furnishing him with constant opportunities to reflect upon the dignity of his moral nature. The smiles and the frowns of Providence affect his interests immediately, without the intervention of second causes. Every object around him leads to the most sublime and interesting contemplations; and if pursued with proper feelings, must lead to the most beneficial effects to his character. Let our literary institutions decay, (as appears to be the wish of modern innovators) and but a few generations will pass before our descendants from the *Hesperian gardens* of the West will look in vain for the neat School-Houses, for the Temples of Religion, and for the decent Grave-Yards of their ancestors. The traveller may indeed find a bloated population—he may find fields of rank luxuriance—he may hear the noise of the Mechanic, and see the busy stir of commerce; but it will be a ‘*barren splendour*,’ a ‘*sickly greatness*,’ a ‘*florid vigour*,’ betokening disease, decay and death. Instead of the present happy distribution of property, he will find the lands and the wealth engrossed by a few supercilious *lordlings*, looking down upon the labouring Farmer and the Mechanic as an inferior race of

beings. Instead of the *Church-going bell*, summoning him to the house of prayer, he will find the Sabbath hailed as a day of luxurious festivity, of noisy mirth, and of vulgar dissipation. Instead of the general diffusion of learning, he will find a chosen few appropriating to themselves all the valued treasures of science ; but their knowledge will be too lofty or too refined to pass current among the people, and *ignorance* and *darkness* will overspread the land. Instead of domestic security, the traveller will find those homes, where once was enjoyed “undisturbed sleep within unbarred doors,” beset by excisemen and *gens d’armes* by day, and in the hours of darkness surrounded by the prowlings of the thief, the lurking of the robber, and the whispers of the assassin. The spy and informer will glide into every retreat, and follow your descendant even among the birches and shrub-oaks that will conceal the neglected tombstones of his fathers. “Corruption, like a general flood,” will desolate the land, and sweep away in its progress all that is peculiar and valuable in our equal laws. Discontent and misery will sit brooding upon the countenances of the people, who, wearied out with continual changes, and in listening to a succession of demagogues, will be prepared to surrender the remnant of their liberties to the iron grasp of a Dictator. Then “farewell, a long farewell” to all New-England’s greatness.

Political economists have generally traced *national wealth* to three great sources, *Agriculture*, *Manufactures*, and *Commerce*. These form the parts of that vast cord that encircles and binds together the discordant elements of political society. They are mutually dependent, each upon the other, for the general strength they unitedly afford. Essentially injure one of these great interests, and you destroy or weaken the whole. In advocating the cause of the one, therefore, it is not the part of wisdom to manifest any hostility towards the others. We are associated for the promotion of *Agriculture* and *Manufactures*, but not in opposition to *Commerce* ; because, with-

out proper facilities for the exchange of our commodities, our favourite pursuits would languish and decay. Neither let it be supposed, that in our encomiums upon Husbandry, we intend to derogate any thing from the importance of Manufacturing. Most of the handicraft trades are essentially connected with the cultivation of the earth; and without these facilities our labours would be almost in vain. When therefore we speak of *Agriculture*, we wish to be understood as including all those branches of domestic manufacture by which the cultivation of the earth is promoted. Without the use of iron, for instance, the fields of Massachusetts would yield but a meagre harvest. Nor would we be limited to this view of the subject. No real friend to New-England, no wise man, that has watched her progress, that has compared her situation with that of the wealthiest countries of Europe, but must admit that the time is approaching when she must be an extensive manufacturing district. Circumstances beyond our control, have rendered it necessary that some of the streams of our surplus capital should be turned into this channel. By a judicious management, this wealth will not be lost to us: it will become absorbed in the soil—it will be prevented from flowing to too great a distance—and thus it may diffuse a more general fertility. In the present languishing state of commerce, this probably is the only mode by which we can retain our surplus population and our resources among ourselves. Time and circumstances will probably accomplish all that the most sanguine “friend to domestic industry” can desire. The controversy that has so long agitated the community upon this subject, is merely upon the *degree* of encouragement that is proper to be given to this branch of employment.

To adjust the jarring interests of *Commerce* and *Manufactures*, seems to have been, of late, a great part of the business of the Grand Council of our nation. That they should be encouraged and protected, the enlightened

Farmer does not object. But may not the inquiry be permitted, why the encouragement of *Agriculture* should so seldom be a topic of discussion? When the *Imports* and *Excises* fail to replenish the treasury, we hear much of the productive nature of a *Land-Tax*, and the certainty and ease with which it may be collected! When an army is to be raised, there is a never-failing resource of recruits among the hardy Yeomanry of the country! It is true, the details of this interest occupy but a small space in our *luminous* Treasury reports: it is scarcely seen amid the bustle of the wharf and the ware-house.—Nor does it attract the gaze of the traveller like the motions of a steam-engine, the buzz of an army of spindles, or the clatter of a host of power-looms: its progress is gradual and silent, as the growth of its products. But *Agriculture* is the *life-blood* of this nation: it clothes and it feeds our ten millions of inhabitants: it forms more than three-fourths of our domestic exports, and more than half of all the exports of our extensive commerce: it is the solid Tuscan base that supports the august fabric of civil society. Without it, Labour would languish for employment—Trade and the Arts for materials of workmanship and articles of exchange—the massy Doric column and the ornamental Corinthian capital would tumble into ruins, and serve only to desolate what they now support and embellish.

The solid and durable character of the *capital stock* added to any section of a country by Husbandry, affords a striking contrast to the transitory and fluctuating nature of that acquired by the pursuits of Trade. A Merchant, it has often been observed, is a *citizen of the world*, and not necessarily an inhabitant of any particular nation: his fortune is literally afloat, and he may change it with every shifting breeze. Not so with the Husbandman: his capital is annexed to the soil he inhabits, and becomes identified with its dearest interests. If, from caprice or disaffection, he changes his domicil, the fruits of his toil,

his industry and his enterprize remain, to form an integral part of the capital stock of the district where it was accumulated. The volatility of a trading capital may be likened to the element upon which it is generally earned. Unstable as the ocean, it flows and it ebbs with every tide—while the stock earned by improvements upon the land is as permanent as the soil from whence it is derived, fixed as our native hills, and as durable as the masses of granite upon which they rest.

The ordinary events of war, of peace, of changes in the policy of governments, most generally affect the sources of commercial profit, and often leaves them completely dried up ; but that wealth that results from fertilizing the national domain, cannot be materially affected, only by those lasting depredations that devastate whole provinces. As a practical illustration of these principles, revert for a moment to the map of the world ; and first, behold Egypt, that celebrated granary of the East, from times of patriarchal antiquity, when the Husbandmen of Canaan *went down to buy corn*. Who does not recognize the period to which we allude, that recollects the twelve brethren at the Egyptian court ? No one can forget the narrative that is associated with his earliest recollections, and which he finds as instructive to him as a parent as it was interesting to him as a child. Egypt, through the long line of her Pharaohs and her Ptolemies, the succession of her *Mamelukes*, her *Beys* and her *Pachas*, for a period of more than forty centuries, by Agriculture alone, has been enabled to furnish bread to her neighbours ; and, it is said, is now about entering into competition with this distant region in supplying the European market with our most important staple, the article of Cotton. And thus, notwithstanding the exactions and oppressions of the worst government, is blessed with resources as redundant as her Nile, and as imperishable as her pyramids.

Look now at Spain, fallen, degraded Spain ! once the possessor of both the Indies, and the controller of their

wealth—once rich in an enterprizing commerce with her own colonies and the whole world. With the spices of the East and the gold of the West, she commanded the trade of Europe.

“Proud swell’d her tides with loads of freighted ore,
“And shouting folly hail’d them from her shore.”

But every galleon that entered her port brought with it the seeds of weakness and decay. Her kings were furnished with the means of engaging in the most destructive wars. Her nobles were dazzled with the glare of boundless wealth. The national industry lost its elasticity. With the expulsion of the Jews and the Moors at least a million of her most thriving mechanics and husbandmen were lost forever. The most oppressive and unequal tax upon *every sale* of certain commodities has destroyed her internal trade and her manufactures. And what must be the state of Agriculture under a system that allows the privileged orders to drive their flocks of thousands through different provinces for the benefit of pasturage, prostrating in their course alike the crops as well as the fences of the unfortunate tenantry. Her local situation and her physical advantages are probably superior to those of any other nation; but, deluded by the glare of commercial wealth, she has pursued, for centuries, a policy that has palsied her Manufactures and blasted her Husbandry. Her manufactures of iron, of steel and of tin now furnish employment to thousands of English labourers. And our own native hills at this moment exult in the choicest of her flocks. Bending beneath the most abject superstition, this once gallant nation now lies, cowled and hooded, extended upon her own *Escurial*, a humble tributary to France, realizing the gigantic idea of Louis XIV, when his grandson ascended her abject throne, “*There are no longer Pyrenees.*” The lofty barriers erected by nature, to defend her imbecility from the inroads of Gallick armies, have faded and passed away before the touch of Gallick corruption.

Where are the seventy-two *Hanse towns* that in the thirteenth century burst the iron bands of feudal tyranny, and formed that powerful confederacy that for so long a time engrossed the commercial wealth of Europe? Most of their names are blotted from the registers of mankind, and the places where many of them stood cannot now be pointed out to the inquiring traveller. But Flanders, on the frontiers of the most warlike kingdom, and the scene of their greatest devastations, by her *domestic industry* rises superior to every adversity. The armies of Austria and France have often laid waste her provinces, and robbed her of every thing but her Agricultural and her Manufacturing riches. With these resources, she continues among the most opulent and populous of the continental nations.

But we need not recur to the history of other countries or other times. There is scarcely a part of the world that exemplifies the truth of our position more forcibly than the interior of New-England. Every obstacle is here yielding to the all-subduing power of human industry. The most dreary morasses, the most rugged declivities are annually submitting to the diligence of our Farmers; and our tumbling cataracts are held in durance by the perseverance of our enterprizing Manufacturers. If in political economy one principle is better established than any other, it is this, *that country is the richest and the most independent, whose employment of capital and labour furnishes the means of supporting the greatest population at the least expense.* With this principle in view, can any doubt the policy of encouraging the objects of this Society?

Come, then, Fellow-Citizens! Patriots! ye who are connected to our soil by the ties of ancestry, of fortune, or of home—ye who reverence New-England as the land of your birth, and identify with her hills and her vallies the places of your earliest associations—ye who contemplate her advancement with delight—come and devote a

portion of your time and your talents to the cultivation of her soil, in improving her husbandry, in dissipating the mists of vulgar prejudices that time and superstition and ignorance have hung around this art. No longer suffer the mortification of seeing the most enterprizing of your sons annually calling for the *portion of goods that may fall to their share*, joining themselves to citizens of far countries, and if not wasting their substance, at least appropriating the fruits of your toil in regions far from the institutions and sepulchres of their fathers.

Ye men of affluence! come and bestow a portion of your wealth in improving the face of that earth, from whence your treasures were derived. If managed with the same discretion that marks the direction of your ordinary concerns, you will not find it an unprofitable investment. It will be placing a part of your property where ordinary changes cannot corrupt it, and where the hands of violence cannot plunder it. It is a mistaken idea that farming under any circumstances is an unprofitable pursuit.—Without discussing the subject, permit me to inquire, from whence is derived the annual support of our population in a style of expense (and for which we ought to blush) superior to that of any other people upon the globe? Whence the enormous sums that are annually expended in education and charity? Whence our roads, our bridges, our halls of justice, our temples of worship, and that splendid galaxy of edifices for public instruction that marks our land?—All that founded them, and all that supports them, springs from the soil. But, besides the pecuniary profit and the security to yourselves and posterity, you will realize from farming a thousand delightful anticipations and ten thousand heartfelt recollections. You will awaken in the labourer the spirit of industry, and encourage him with the hope of independence. You will also have the satisfaction of contributing that noblest of all charities, that does not merely *relieve* poverty, but which *prevents* it.

And ye men of piety and devotion—ye who minister as well as ye who worship at the altar of our common faith—come, and lend your aid to that pursuit that was imposed on man in his innocence, and which he never abandoned until the earth was filled with violence. Do not your visions of the future destinies of our nation mingle themselves with the glories of the whole earth, at the latter days, when the moral renovation of the human character shall be accompanied by a like improvement in the physical creation? That glorious period, “foretold by prophets, and by poets sung,” we believe must be *perfected* by the more general prevalence of Christianity, and by permitting it to influence men in their social relations as well as in their individual capacities. But may it not be *induced* by cultivating those domestic virtues and employments whose tendency is to soften the asperities of men, and unite them in brotherly love—those occupations that will cause the weapons of human destruction to be converted into implements of husbandry, that nations may learn war no more? Who can contemplate without emotions the period, when the great human family shall be scattered over the whole earth, *dwelling in quiet resting-places, sitting each under his own vine and fig-tree, without any to molest?* “*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain brought low.*” “*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.*”

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OF THE
WORCESTER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,
ELECTED APRIL, 1824.

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Charles Henshaw,	Silas Brooks,
Samuel Mixter,	Samuel Ward,
Joseph Davis,	Thomas Chamberlain.



Members admitted since the last Publication.

Joseph Thayer, Uxbridge, April, 1818, accidentally omitted heretofore.

HARDWICK.

Samuel Billing,
Samuel F. Cutler.

EDMUND MILLS,

ROYAL T. MARBLE.

BENJAMIN HOWARD,

AUSTIN DENNY,

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STERLING.

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WORCESTER.

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SUTTON.

Asa Cummings, jr.

REPORTS OF THE SEVERAL COMMITTEES.

Committee on MILCH COWS and FAT CATTLE.

Oliver Fiske, of Worcester, *Chairman*; Jacob Conant, of Sterling; Henry Penniman, of New-Braintree; Dexter Fay, of Southborough; Royal Keith, of Grafton.

THE Committee on Fat Oxen and Milch Cows have performed the very difficult duty assigned them, with their best skill and judgment, as applied to the *view* of the animals offered for their inspection, and to the *evidence* furnished them of their respective merits. Agriculturists must be aware that the most careful examination of an animal may be deceptive, and the best information prove incorrect. This remark applies to Milch Cows more forcibly than to any other animal offered for premium. The smallest and most ordinary looking cow in the farm-yard is often the most valuable of the flock for a dairy. She also may be the best in the pens without attracting particular notice, while one of large size, and of commanding points and proportion, of not half her value, is preferred.—The testimony at the pens is seldom the best evidence the nature of the case admits: not because the owner is an interested witness, and prone, like every body else, to fancy his own possessions the best; but from the circumstance that the dairy is managed by *the other partner of the firm*, and that he has not been conversant with the amount and quality of milk which any cow furnishes. He is satisfied if she is called a good cow; and probably brings her to the Show, relying more on her fine appearance than on her intrinsic worth. These difficulties are inherent to the duty of the Committee. A worse impediment was in several cases encountered. From the inattention of the owner, the Committee could learn only his *name*, and the *age* of his cow, from the ticket furnished for the pen. This preliminary the Committee have deemed it important to make, that those who may think they could have decided better may at least be led to doubt whether more competent judges would have come to a more correct decision.

On the other branch of their services, the subject of Fat Oxen, the Committee had an easier task. The question of the *fattest* was not important, as it applied only to two belonging to one owner. By a rule of the Society no person can obtain one premium for the best, and another for the next best of the same article. The premium for the fattest ox, the Committee must confess, was not adjudged to the owner with reference to the best and cheapest mode of fattening, and in testimony of his having produced good beef in a profitable manner, as a guide and stimulus to others; but as in part remuneration for the great trouble and expense he must have incurred in giving attraction and credit to the Show, and in further demonstrating to the world the capacity of our native breed of cattle to become *enormously fat* and *immensely large*. As an article of food, the Committee are of opinion that the beef by the hundred weight was better a year ago, and that the owner, carefully noting the items of expense, will find by the result that, as an article of profit, it was also better at that time.

There is a point in the fattening of beef cattle, beyond which, whether for consumption or profit, an useless expense commences. This point the Committee believe to be when the fat is so interspersed with the lean as to render the flesh what is termed *marbled*. The juices, from this admixture, are then the most agreeably blended, and the meat in its highest excellence. The production in weight after this period is *forced tallow*, that can be made and purchased at comparatively a much cheaper rate. It is to be hoped, however, that liberal purchasers will award to the spirited owner a *premium price* for his beef; and that the extra expense may be so parcelled out in the market, as to be averaged upon the publick-spirited consumers.

The Fat Oxen submitted to the view of the Committee were but four in number; two owned by Col. Seth Wyman, of Shrewsbury, one by Stephen Williams, Esq. of Northborough, and one by John W. Hubbard, Esq. of Worcester. The pair offered by Col. Wyman were the fattest that the Committee have ever seen exhibited. They awarded to Col. Seth Wyman the first premium, of 15 dollars, for his red ox—to John W. Hubbard the second premium, of 10 dollars, for his grass-fed ox.

Mr. Williams's Steer, from Denton, was uncommonly large and well-proportioned, and exhibited the excellent points in this superior breed.—He is unquestionably destined at another season to command the first rank in the pens. His failure in obtaining the second premium was not on account of his being less valuable in any particular than his competitor; but from the consideration that the latter acquired his flesh in one season, after having been worked down in a series of hard labour.

Nineteen Cows were offered for premium, and all, except one, of our native breed. They generally had the appearance of extraordinary value, and all gave evidence of intrinsic worth. Their exhibition afforded additional proof that our own stock of cows needs no other improvement than can be obtained by a careful selection and a judicious attention to the origin and management of her progeny.

In determining the premiums on cows, the Committee were governed by a consideration of her age—the quantity and quality of the milk—the expense of her keeping—how early her milk fails—and how long she is unproductive. From these tests, so far as they could be known, they formed their opinion. When a cow has arrived at her prime, every succeeding year more and more diminishes her value. If a cow at four years old in all essential qualities is equal to one of eight years old, she will, most probably, at that age be superior. Her increase in value is an annual profit to the owner, while the other is yearly declining. Hence, at that age, she is deserving of higher consideration as a milch cow.—The quantity and quality of the milk, although perhaps not peculiar to any age, is an essential inquiry. It is a rare occurrence if a cow greatly excels in both; for it seems to be a fact, predicated upon the laws of nature, that as the quantity increases, its quality must be diminished. The propensity to drying early is an important defect, but more easily corrected in a young cow. Every farmer knows the difference in cows as well as in the rest of his stock, with respect to their productiveness on the same keeping. A disposition to do well on ordinary fare is a peculiar good trait in a cow, especially for such families as have not the means of keeping more than one, and that one indifferently.

From these premises the Committee adjudged to Nathaniel Stowell, of Worcester, the first premium, of 15 dollars—to Nathaniel Paine, of Worcester, the second premium, of 10 dollars*—to Benjamin F. Farnsworth, of Worcester, the third premium, of 8 dollars.

* The second premium was awarded to Jn Igé Paine, under the impression that he was owner of "three cows kept together." This not being the fact, the premium cannot be received.

To this conclusion the Committee could not arrive without great deliberation and hesitancy. The essential points in many of the cows were so nearly balanced, that another set of judges might in each case have decided differently without any impeachment of their judgment. Among the unsuccessful cows particularly noticed for prominent good qualities was Col. Mixter's, of New-Braintree, and Col. Bush's, of Boylston: they were of the first class, but not represented as uncommon in the duration of their productiveness. Col. Watson's, of Princeton, was large and one of the best formed cows exhibited; but from her habitual propensity to flesh, and the circumstance that she had generally raised her calves, (two of which were present to attest her value,) sufficient evidence was not afforded of her superior excellence for the dairy. Mr. Horatio G. Henshaw's, of Worcester, was a formidable rival to Mr. Farnsworth's, and in the judgment of the Committee was but a very little inferior.—Capt. Harrington's, of Princeton, Mr. Rainger's and Mr. Earl's, of New-Braintree, at any former Show would have taken a commanding stand. Mr. Elisha Sumner's, of Rutland, had a sufficient voucher in a noble calf by her side that she is a first-rate breeder; but as she had always reared her calves, no judgment could be formed of her value as a milch cow.—Mr. Newell's, of New-Braintree, had every appearance of having been a first-rate cow, but her age (10 years) had essentially diminished her value. Others, not particularly recollected, in most of their essential qualities did credit to their judicious owners; and the Committee regret that the restriction of premiums prevented their selecting a much larger number of excellent cows as objects of a more flattering and substantial notice.

Cows for exhibition only, were offered by Ward N. Boylston, Esq. and the Hon. Judge Lincoln, gentlemen who have ever manifested a deep and ardent interest in the reputation and prosperity of the Society. Mr. Boylston's two uncommonly large and beautiful cows have heretofore given celebrity to our Shows. The cows exhibited by Judge Lincoln, the progeny of Denton, in their younger state have repeatedly attracted attention at the pens. In their present station as cows, they amply confirm their early promise, and unequivocally demonstrate the value of this justly celebrated breed.

In behalf of the Committee,

O. FISKE, *Chairman.*

October 13, 1824.



Committee on WORKING OXEN.

John W. Hubbard, of Worcester, *Chairman*; Rufus Barton, of Millbury; Asa Cummings, jr. of Sutton; William Foster, of Southbridge; William Eager, of Northborough.

THE Committee on *Working Oxen* have attended to the duty assigned to them.

It is saying a great deal in praise of the show of Working Oxen exhibited to-day, to say that it has equalled that of any preceding year. And if this County has never before exhibited a finer show of Working Oxen, your Committee do not know where they should look for one superior to it. We believe we might look in vain even to the country of John Bull himself—the country of improved short horns and improved long horns—of the Herefords and the Teeswaters—the Alderneys and the Vigeloes—the country where 1000 guineas are given for a Bull, and 500 for a Heifer.

In proceeding to remark particularly on the several pairs submitted to their adjudication, the Committee cannot but notice one serious difficulty they were obliged to encounter, in making up their opinions: this is, the very imperfect and unsatisfactory nature of the trial to which the oxen are subjected. The draft of a heavy load on a cart for a short distance, up hill, affords very uncertain evidence of the real value and power of the animals. Some are naturally much more slow in their gait, and laborious in their manner of drawing, than others; though at the same time they may be capable of performing more work than those which step off, for a few minutes, more handsomely. Some will perform admirably for a short time, but would fail under continued hard service. In some, the great vigour and activity they display may be the effect of high keeping and little service; and this would not appear to the judges. Above all, some are much more intimidated by the moving crowd about them than others, and from this cause they may be prevented from showing their usual power and docility. We can all see, also, that there is a great difference in the skill of the drivers. A judicious, intelligent farmer would want to know a great deal more respecting a pair of oxen which he was about to purchase, than he could learn from such a trial as we witness. He would wish to be satisfied whether they would work hard, day after day, and yet hold their life and flesh, eat and drink well, and fill themselves readily—whether they were true and ready at all times and in all places—and whether they were in reality, in all important properties, as well as to appearance, well matched. But from such data as we were furnished with, we were obliged to form our opinions; and we submit the result, relying on the candour of the competitors.

Seventeen pairs of oxen were entered for drawing; but from various circumstances, eleven pairs only were subjected to the trial. A very beautiful pair was withdrawn from the competition by Mr. Asa Cummings, jr. of Sutton, on account of his having been selected as one of the judges in this department. The performance of these oxen at the ploughing match shewed that the competitors for the premiums on working oxen are much indebted to the delicacy of Mr. Cummings in withholding them from the trial.

The Committee were decidedly of opinion that where old and young cattle are brought into competition, if the younger animals perform as well or nearly as well as the older, they are entitled to the preference. This opinion operated to exclude from the premiums nearly one half of the oxen brought to the trial; and of these some were very large, stately, noble, and valuable cattle. Of this description, Stephen Marsh, of Sutton, brought to the trial a pair, 6 and 7 years old. Messrs. Ward & Rice, of Worcester, brought into the competition a pair, 8 years old: these were of great size, fine proportion, and extraordinary power; and, considering their capacity for beef as well as for work, were probably worth more money than any other pair on the field—but much hard service had diminished their activity and vigour. The pair owned by Henry Bullard, of Holden, 8 years old, though sturdy and excellent in the draft, were not well made, nor very well trained: they were better calculated for use than for show—for profit than for pride; though the Committee believe that smoother and handsomer cattle are more easily kept, and though they may not be capable of doing more work, are much more easily and cheaply converted into beef. The 7 years old cattle of Seth Wynnian, of Shrewsbury, were an elegant, large, well-matched pair, and under excellent discipline: they performed the service to which they were subjected with great ease and vigour: they were in every respect creditable to the distinguished farmer who owns them, and who has exhibited them at two of our previous Shows. On one of these

former occasions, they obtained the second premium as working cattle, and could not, therefore, according to the rules of the Society, obtain any except the first this year: they had thus but one chance where all the others had four. Seth Hastings, of Mendon, also sent to the trial a pair of old oxen, which added to the agricultural credit of the distinguished citizen who is their owner.

Of the younger cattle which entered the lists, two pairs were 4, and four pairs 5 years old. Those of Silas Dudley, of Sutton, were 5—rather small, but well made and well trained, and exhibited remarkable power for their weight. Those of Royal T. Marble, of Sutton, were 4 years old only—in every respect beautiful and valuable cattle—smooth and tight built; and, considering their age and size, of astonishing muscle and power. Those of Asa Rice, of Worcester, 5 years old, were quite small and light, and not remarkably snug and thick-meated; but their vigour and activity far exceeded the expectations the Committee had formed from their appearance. Mr. Rice has been for several years a competitor in this department of our Shows, and has this year, as well as before, proved himself a formidable rival of the Sutton disciplinarians. Luther Whiting, of Sutton, brought forward a pair of 4 years old. They were remarkably large and heavy of their age; and it was in consequence of thus early attaining a very large size, as the Committee supposed, that they were rather slow, and drew laboriously: but they backed the load admirably, better than any others on the field. Samuel Sibley, of Sutton, brought to the trial a pair, 5 years old—rather unpromising in their appearance—light in proportion to their height and bones; but the Committee were agreeably disappointed in the vigour and promptness with which they drew the heavy load on the cart, consisting of two tons, gross: but they were not sufficiently broad, close and well made to be either handsome or profitable. The last pair subjected to the trial were those of Sumner Cole, of Sutton. These were 5 years old, and combined all the excellencies of form, power and discipline for which Sutton oxen are so justly celebrated. They appeared and performed rather better than any others submitted to our adjudication; and nothing prevented their obtaining the first premium but the fact that the pair belonging to Mr. Marble were very nearly equal to them, and a year younger.

On the whole, therefore, the Committee recommend to the Society to give the

1st premium, of \$15,	to Royal T. Marble.
2d do.	of \$12, to Sumner Cole.
3d do.	of \$10, to Silas Dudley.
4th do.	of \$5, to Luther Whiting.

On behalf of the Committee,

JOHN W. HUBBARD, *Chairman.*



Committee on NEAT STOCK other than Cows and FAT CATTLE.

Rejoice Newton, of Worcester, *Chairman*; Paul Dudley, of Douglas; Willard Newton, of Southborough; Levi Bartlett, of Rutland; Lewis Barnard, of Worcester.

THE Committee on Neat Stock other than Cows and Fat Cattle, Report—That they have witnessed with much satisfaction the continued interest, which the yeomanry of the County have this day shown that

they feel in maintaining the reputation which they have heretofore acquired. They believe that the Neat Stock usually offered at our exhibitions is not surpassed by that of any other Society; and they hope and have renewed reason to believe, that the spirit and enterprize of the farmers of Worcester County will never suffer any other Society to go before them in this *staple commodity*.

The number of Bulls which your Committee have examined for premium is thirteen—of the most improved breeds of imported animals, and of the best breeds of our native stock. Those of the imported breeds are sufficiently advanced in years, and are accompanied by a sufficient number of the same kinds of stock, to show their great value in the breeding of cattle; and it is found that generally the greater number of fine animals are from those breeds—though there are some exceptions honourable to the early breeds of our country.

The Committee have awarded the first premium, of \$15, to Col. Jonas Ball, of Southborough, for his 3 year old Bull, from Denton. He has more good points than are often found in any animal, and he is sufficiently advanced in years to have arrived to his permanent growth and shape. They have awarded the second premium, of \$10, to Bezaleel Taft, jun. Esq. for his 2 year old Bull, of a fine native stock, from which so many good cattle have been produced in the town of Sutton. Four other Bulls claimed the particular attention of your Committee. That of Mr. Zephaniah Brown, of Charlton, which took the first premium last year, as a calf, and that of Mr. Benjamin Harrington, which took the second premium last year; but they both have the appearance of having been too much forced the last year to support their relative standing, though they have many good points. That of Mr. Daniel King, of Charlton, is nearly as good, without the appearance of having a premature growth. These three are from Holderness, and are rarely equalled by any of our native stock. The Bull of Mr. Boylston is a large and finely made animal, but is not as good in some points as those to which premiums are given.

Twelve Bull Calves were exhibited for premium. The first premium, of \$6, is awarded to Mr. Cheney Hatch, of Leicester; and the second, of \$4, to Mr. Henry Sprague, of Spencer; not, however, without much hesitation and a division of the Committee between those of Mr. Sprague and Capt. James Estabrook, jr. of Rutland; and Capt. Estabrook ought not, from this decision, to despair of having as good a Bull, another year, as may then be exhibited. There were other good Calves, but which could not vie with the three above mentioned, unless it was that of Mr. Sumner, of Rutland, which was too young to be satisfactorily estimated.

The Steers, of different ages, have, this year, in the opinion of the Committee, surpassed those of any former year. The Committee have awarded the only premium offered for those of four years old, to Mr. Asa Cummings, jr. of Sutton. Several other pairs offered were remarkable for size and shape, and so near of equal goodness that your Committee forbear to make any discrimination.

Among the 3 year old Steers, the Committee were much divided, and long hesitated; and nothing but the necessity of agreeing brought them to a decision. They awarded the first premium, of \$8, to Mr. Stephen Marsh, jr. of Sutton; and the second premium, of \$5, to Mr. Caleb Knight, of Charlton. A finer collection of this class of stock, your Committee believe, was never exhibited at any Show.

To Daniel Tenny, Esq. of Sutton, the Committee award the first premium, of \$7, for the best pair of 2 year old Steers; and to Mr. Benjamin Harrington, of Princeton, the second premium, of \$4, for the next best. This class of Steers presented difficulties nearly as great as those of other ages: they were many, and of superior quality.

To Mr. Amos Merriam, of Princeton, is awarded the first premium, of \$5, for Yearling Steers; and to Col. Jonas Ball, of Southborough, the second premium, of \$3, for the next best.

But two 3 year old Heifers were offered for premium, and your Committee did not think either of them of such superior quality as to merit a premium. Several were for exhibition merely—which were worthy of premiums, had they been offered for that purpose.

For 2 year old Heifers, the Committee award the first premium, of \$6, to Mr. Henry Sprague, of Spencer; and the second, of \$5, to Mr. Luther Whiting, of Sutton.

To Mr. Benjamin Harrington, of Princeton, they award the first premium, of \$5, for the best Yearling Heifer; and to Col. Jacob W. Watson, of Princeton, the second premium, of \$4, for the next best.

For the best Heifer Calf, they award the first premium, of \$5, to Col. Watson; and the second, of \$4, to Mr. Harrington.

The Committee cannot, in justice, leave the subjects of their inquiries without some notice of those animals offered only for exhibition, and which fall within those classes particularly confided to them.

The stock which Mr. Williams has introduced into the County always claims the first attention. Although the progenitor of the race, which has taken the head of our pens, and stood foremost in the Show from the first, has this day left his place for others, yet his numerous descendants have well supported his reputation. The 3 year old Heifer descended from him, owned by Mr. Williams, presents all the best points found in a good milker, and which are calculated for the best stock of cattle, either for the plough or the stall. Others of the same race, which are too numerous to particularize, show, that taking them all in all, no better stock has ever been found in this or any other country. One trait in this stock proves their incalculable value—which is, that the older they are, the better they are proportioned, and the more perfect their shape. Judge Lincoln's Heifers of this breed show conclusively their value as milkers; and his other animals, exhibited this day, bear as unequivocal testimony to their worth for the stall. The Bull of Mr. Hubbard, also, is a sufficient voucher for their size and shape.

Your Committee would not do justice to their own feelings should they omit the stock of Mr. Boylston, though only a part of it falls within the classes assigned to them. The Committee know not the origin of his stock; but this they know, that so long as he shall continue to add to the interests of our Show, as he ever has done, by producing such stock, they shall ever be proud to acknowledge him as a Worcester farmer.

Your Committee represent, that so great a number of animals is assigned for their examination, and the time allowed them so short, that it is nearly impossible to satisfy themselves in awarding premiums; and they have little time to notice those offered for exhibition. The mere manual labour of drawing up a report embracing so many objects, ought to occupy a considerable portion of the time which is necessarily devoted to the examination. Under these circumstances, they beg leave to suggest the propriety, at our future Shows, of dividing the labours between two or more Committees. It is believed that justice would be more likely to be done, and many fine animals offered for exhibition, which under the present arrangement escape the notice of a Committee, would receive that attention which they are entitled to, and which their owners expect.

REJOICE NEWTON, *per order.*

Committee on SHEEP.

Jonas L. Sibley, of Sutton, *Chairman*; Joshua W. Leland, of Grafton; Moses Kendall, of Barre; Stephen Davis, of Oxford; Edward Howard, of Dudley.

THE Committee on Sheep having attended to the duty assigned them, submit the following Report:—

That this species of animals, presented for premium, was not in such numbers, and most of them not of such properties as to exhibit a fair sample of the flocks of the County. Though some of them were fine animals, yet a large proportion were not of a superior quality. It is to be lamented, that this class of animals, so important to our manufactures, and so profitable to the farmer, when properly managed, should be so feebly represented at our Exhibitions. The growing spirit of improvement in agriculture, and the honourable emulation which exists among the yeomanry of our County, in the rich display of Neat Stock at our Shows, leads us to fear that our farmers, content with their superiority in Neat Cattle, have neglected in some degree the improvement of their *Flocks*, to maintain the high reputation of their *Herds*. The present low prices in the markets of all agricultural products, the increasing demand for wool at our manufactories, together with the encouragement and protection afforded our wool-growers, by a late Act of Congress imposing an additional duty on foreign wool, present strong inducements to the farmer to turn his attention to this branch of husbandry. The soil and climate of our County is peculiarly adapted to the rearing of Sheep, and the efforts which have been and are now making, to introduce into our country the best and choicest breed of fine-woollen Sheep, render it *morally* certain that the day is not far distant, when we could be as celebrated for the superiority of our Sheep as we are for the excellency of our Cattle.

Your Committee, after a careful examination and comparison, having regard to the size of the animal, and more particularly the fineness and quality of the fleece, have come to the conclusion and do award the following premiums:—

For the best Merino Ram, to Joseph Thayer, of Uxbridge,	\$10:00
For the next best do. do. to Isaac Mills, of Worcester,	5:00
For the four best Merino Ewes, to Benjamin N. Childs, of	
Worcester,	10:00
For the next best do. do. to Stephen Marsh, jr. of Sutton,	5:00
For the best lot of mixed Merino Sheep, to James Smith,	
of Rutland,	5:00
For the best Native Ram, to Levi Jennison, of Shrewsbury,	5:00
For the best Native Ewes, to John Temple, of West-Boylston,	4:00

The Committee avail themselves of this opportunity to remark, that the fine Saxon Ram, exhibited by the Hon. Judge Lincoln, claimed their particular notice; and from the general appearance of the animal, and the quality of the fleece, we have no hesitation to say that this species of sheep merits our particular attention as a valuable addition to our flocks. The same gentleman's lot of Merino Ewes presented for exhibition only, were not inferior to any in the pens, and would have deserved a premium, had any been claimed. Rejoice Newton, Esq. of Worcester, exhibited four mixed Merino Sheep, which were of a superior quality; but the number was not sufficient to entitle them to a premium.

JONAS L. SIBLEY, *Chairman*.

Committee on SWINE.

John Davis, of Worcester, *Chairman*; John Gleason, jr. of Worcester; Charles Brigham, of Grafton.

THE Committee upon Swine having attended to the service assigned them, submit the following Report:—

They are much gratified in being able to state that they found the exhibition of this kind of animal furnishing strong proofs of improvement. They do not recollect having seen at any former Show so many or so valuable swine. The number of boars found in the pens were seven; and the Committee have awarded to Capt. Lewis Bigelow, of Worcester, the first premium, of \$7, for a fine animal of his, which they understand is of the Bedford breed, descended from the stock of Dr. Fiske, and was decidedly superior to any other exhibited.

The second premium the Committee are of opinion (if awarded at all) should be given for an animal entered by Maj. Samuel Graves, but belonging to the town of Worcester, and raised upon the farm on which the poor of the town are supported. As two of the Committee, however, are inhabitants of Worcester, they have declined assigning this premium to the town, and have not awarded it to any other competitor, because the third member of the Committee was decidedly in favour of giving it to the town. The Committee found in the pens nine breeding sows, six of which were offered for premium; and they have awarded the first premium, of \$6, to Messrs. Ward & Rice, of Worcester; and the second, of \$4, to Mr. Nathaniel Stowell, of Worcester.

The Committee would here observe, that the duty assigned them was difficult, because all the animals of this description are superior, and in almost any other competition than that to which they were subjected would have carried premiums. Those entered by Mr. John F. Clark, Mr. Nahum Willington, Mr. Clark Whittemore, and Mr. William Eaton, jun. all of Worcester, particularly attracted the attention of the Committee, either on account of their obvious superiority to most animals of their kind, or on account of the remarkable progeny which surrounded them; and the Committee only regretted that they had it not in their power to reward more fully a competition so well sustained.

The Committee found seven persons competitors for the premium of \$4 upon pigs, and they have awarded it to Messrs. Ward & Rice, of Worcester, not however without some doubts as to whose lot the preference should be given. The pigs offered were, without exception, such as the Committee considered as furnishing strong proofs of improvement in the breed of swine. Those of Mr. Dudley, of Sutton, and Mr. Stowell, of Worcester, very justly rendered the claim of Messrs. Ward & Rice to the premium doubtful.

These were all the premiums the Committee had it in their power to award; but they cannot pass from this subject without particularly noticing the swine offered for *Exhibition only*, by the Hon. Oliver Fiske and Stephen Salisbury, Esq. of Worcester. The sow, barrow, and pig belonging to the former gentleman, and the sow and pigs belonging to the latter, did not fail of attracting the particular attention of the Committee; and they take the liberty to observe that they have rarely, if ever, seen so fine an exhibition of animals of this kind. Those of Dr. Fiske fully sustained the account he has given of them in the *New-England Farmer*; and it is some proof of the good qualities of this breed, that the swine of Messrs. Ward & Rice, and Mr. Stowell, as well as Capt. Bigelow's, are from the stock of Dr. Fiske. Mr. Salisbury's sow and pigs, which are said to be a cross of the same breed, were not excelled by any at the Show.

Inasmuch as the second premium for boars is undisposed of, the Committee take the liberty of proposing that it be awarded to Mr. Silas Dudley, of Sutton, for his extraordinary pigs, which are very large and fat, and are said to be of the *Grass-breed*, so called.

The Committee have thus, not without difficulty and embarrassment, disposed of the several premiums as a just reward to the enterprize, skill, and agricultural attainments of those who entered the lists as competitors. They cannot however close their labours without expressing a wish that the attention of farmers may hereafter be effectually directed to a further improvement of this kind of animal. The premiums offered are intended to direct public attention to this branch of agricultural economy; and if they produce the intended result, it may safely be said that no money can be much more beneficially expended. Our own experience and that of our fathers has long since established the fact that swine are essential to a good system of agriculture. The pork is considered as almost indispensable in the family of the farmer, and is a productive source of income in the market. The hams are destined to a conspicuous place on the tables of the rich—while the salted meat furnishes a healthy and grateful food to our fishermen and sailors. Though the hog is not formed by his nature or his habits to fill so large a space in our affections as many other animals; yet for most of the useful and economical purposes of life, he is scarcely surpassed. He is uncommonly hardy—lives at his ease in almost any condition—sleeps, and grows fat upon the orts and ends of the farm. He demands little else (till the process of fattening commences) than the waste of the house and farm. The *wash* of the dairy is to him an excellent beverage; while the leaves of beets and turnips, and even weeds themselves, afford him a rich repast. Indeed, his appetite is so well adapted to the consumption of what we have no other means of disposing of, that the poor and the rich keep him as a sort of family companion: nay, even populous cities permit him to parade their streets, with *beaux* and *belles*, believing him to be the best of scavengers, and necessary to the preservation of health.* His industry also in the pen contributes largely, by enriching the fields of his master, to give to them that beautiful, luxuriant aspect, which delights the beholder, and raises the song of the poet in praise of good cultivation. In so many ways is the hog allied to us—in so many ways is he useful, and in so many ways is he profitable; and should we neglect to improve his condition, we certainly shall fail to appreciate his worth.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN DAVIS.

JOHN GLEASON, jr.

CHARLES BRIGHAM.

* Great numbers of swine are allowed to run at large in the cities of New-York and Albany, to perform the office of scavengers.

Committee on Articles manufactured of WOOL, COTTON, and FLAX
 Bezaleel Taft, jr. of Uxbridge, *Chairman*; John Lees, of West-Boylston; Benjamin Davenport, of Mendon; John W. Stiles, of Worcester; Charles Parkman, of Westborough.

THE Committee on Articles manufactured of Wool, Cotton, and Flax, having carefully attended to the duties of their appointment, submit the following Report:—

Your Committee cannot but regret that the specimens of Domestic Manufactures have been less numerous, on the present occasion, than at

any preceding anniversary of our Society. With the exception of a few pieces of Broadcloth, not a yard of domestic goods, of any description, were presented either for premium or exhibition. To what cause to impute this unpleasant deficiency your Committee is totally at a loss. We are aware that distinguished individuals in the community have entertained sentiments unfriendly to domestic manufactures. They have viewed in every rising establishment a hot-bed of vice, corrupting, by its baneful influence, our moral atmosphere, and to be shunned like the box of Pandora; and we cannot but apprehend that our manufacturing brethren have imputed to our Society the same mistaken views in relation to their interest and usefulness. We assure them, however, that if such apprehensions do exist, they are totally unfounded. The Society is deeply impressed with the importance of this branch of industry, and have identified with it the best interests of the community. Our valuable water privileges are among the essential resources of the County—important alike to the Agriculturist and the Mechanic. Heaven has given them to us as a mean of retaining our population, increasing our wealth, and multiplying our comforts; and a neglect to avail ourselves of their proffered aid would be an ungrateful return for its bounteous gifts. If our Manufacturers have been influenced on the present occasion by an apprehension that we were regardless of their prosperity, we entreat them to discard the illiberal prejudice, and at our future exhibitions do justice to themselves and our County.

After examining the Broadcloths exhibited on this occasion, your Committee have awarded to Messrs. Howard & Slater, of Oxford, for a Superfine Blue, cold pressed, the premium of \$15.

Mr. Anderton, of Leicester, offered to our attention two pieces of Black Cloth, but little if at all inferior to the cloths of Messrs. Howard & Slater; but having been manufactured without the County, could not come in competition as respects the premium.

Mr. John Roberts, of Millbury, presented two specimens deserving our particular notice and high commendation.

As respects Household Manufactures, your Committee are highly gratified that they are justified in giving you a more favourable report. The specimens of female industry and ingenuity to which our attention have been directed are numerous and valuable, manifesting a wonderful improvement in the manufacture of our domestic fabrics. At the early exhibitions of this Society, a large portion of the articles offered for premium were ordinary in their appearance and other essential qualities. On the present occasion not a single article of ordinary character has engaged our attention. The interest manifested by the Ladies in the success of our exertions entitles them to our highest praise.

With a very sincere desire to do justice to our fair competitors, we have awarded to Mrs. Sally Flagg, of Worcester, for the best Carpeting, 4-4 wide, the first premium, of \$15.

To Mrs. Eunice Goodell, of West-Boylston, for the best Carpeting, 3-4 wide, \$10.

Mrs. Thomas Chamberlain, of Worcester, presented a specimen very similar to the one offered by Mrs. Flagg, and your Committee would probably have found it difficult to determine their relative claims to the first premium, had not the one exhibited by Mrs. Chamberlain been deficient in length—that circumstance relieved the Committee from any embarrassment.

To Miss Sophia Merriam, of Oxford, for the best Woollen Cloth, the first premium, of \$3.

To Mr. Lovett Peters, of Westborough, the second premium, of \$5.

To Mr. Jonas Pollard, of Bolton, the third premium, of \$5.

To Mrs. Elizabeth Fay, of New-Braintree, for the best Flannel, 7-8 wide, the first premium, of \$10.

To Mrs. Sibbel Wilcox, of New-Braintree, the second premium, of \$5.

The specimen presented by Mrs. Jonathan Wilder, of Lancaster, was in the estimation of your Committee decidedly the best exhibited, but not of the width required by the rules of the Society.

To Miss Polly Leland, of Grafton, for the best Shirting of linen warp, filled with tow, 7-8 wide, the first premium, of \$5.

To Mr. Joel Flagg, of Shrewsbury, the second premium, of \$3.

Your Committee cannot but particularly notice a very delicate specimen of Shirting, wholly of linen, offered by Mrs. Gideon Delano, of New-Braintree; and recommend to her a premium of \$3.

To Mr. John Hunter, of New-Braintree, for the best Diaper, 5-4 wide, the first premium, of \$8.

To Mrs. John Hunter, they likewise award, for the best Diaper, 4-4 wide, a premium of \$5.

In awarding the single premium on Woollen Coverlets, your Committee experienced some difficulty. Three Coverlets of uncommon excellence were offered, differing materially in the manner of weaving, but in other respects very nearly equal. After considerable deliberation, we have adjudged to Mr. Perez Cobb, of New-Braintree, the premium of \$4. And we recommend that the further sum of four dollars be equally divided between Mrs. John Clark, of Ward, and Mr. Farwell, of Lancaster.

To Miss Betsey C. Glasier, of Gardner, for the two best pairs of Gentlemen's Half Hose, the premium of \$2.

Of the articles for which we have awarded no premium we cannot but notice, as entitled to high commendation, the Carpeting presented by Mrs. Dolly Jenckes, of Spencer—Mrs. Mary Robinson, of Worcester—Miss Lydia Houghton, of Petersham—and Mrs. Gideon Delano, of New-Braintree—all of 4-4 width; by Mr. Ellis Sprague, of Leicester, and Mr. John Clark, of Ward, of 3-4 width—an elegant wrought Hearth-Rug, by Mrs. Pliny Merrick, of Worcester—three others less tasteful and much less valuable, by Miss Mary Eaton, of Brookfield, and Miss Eliza Pope, of New-Braintree—two braided Rugs, by Miss Nancy Sumner, of Rutland. The Flannels offered by Miss Lucretia Harrington, of Worcester, and Miss Lucy Matthews, of New-Braintree—the Blanketing, by Mr. John Hunter, of New-Braintree—the Diaper, by Miss Sally Blair, of Worcester—Mrs. Mary Robinson, of Worcester—Miss Sally Chase, of Sutton—Mrs. Farwell, of Worcester—Mr. Samuel Brown, of Millbury, and Mr. Farwell, of Lancaster; the two last deficient in width. The Hose, presented by Miss Polly Leland, of Grafton, and Miss Alice Sprague, of Leicester—as also a pair of Ladies' Hose, offered for exhibition by Capt. Southgate, of Leicester, knit by a lady in Windham County, (Conn.) 84 years of age.—Also, a Bed-Quilt, by Miss Hannah Blair, of Worcester, displaying an uncommon degree of ingenuity, industry and taste—and two Counterpanes, by Miss Polly Leland, of Grafton, and Mrs. Dolly Jenckes, of Spencer.

To the unsuccessful competitors we can say, they have not failed because their articles were not excellent, but because those presented by others were, in the opinion of your Committee, entitled to the preference. Let no one be discouraged as to future exertions. What has been done can certainly be equalled by persevering industry; and those now unsuccessful may on future occasions be among the more fortunate.

The inspired penman, in enumerating the excellencies of a virtuous woman, says, "she layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff: her household is clothed in scarlet, and her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the city."

To those Ladies who have been successful competitors for premiums on this occasion, we have only to add, that "many daughters have done virtuously, but they have excelled them all."

Respectfully submitted.

BEZALEEL TAFT, Jr. *per order.*

October 13, 1824.



Committee on all Manufactured Articles other than of COTTON, WOOL, and FLAX.

Aaron Tufts, of Dudley, *Chairman*; Jason Mixter, of Hardwick; John M. Earle, of Worcester; John Spurr, of Charlton; Samuel Billing, and Samuel F. Cutler, of Hardwick.

THE Committee on all Manufactured Articles other than of Cotton, Wool, and Flax, have attended to the duties assigned them, and report as follows:—

For the best Sole Leather, not less than 100 lbs. they recommend a premium of \$10, to Phinehas Davis, Esq. of Northborough. Two other lots of very good quality were offered.

For the best manufactured Calf-Skins, not less than 12 in number, the premium of \$10, to William Slocomb, of Northborough. Your Committee were somewhat at a loss in deciding between these Skins and two other lots, one offered by Col. J. W. Watson, of Princeton, and the other by E. H. & J. Bowen, of Shrewsbury; but on a careful examination we inclined in favour of the former. The lot presented by E. H. & J. Bowen was manufactured in a superior manner, and would have been entitled to the premium if the tanning had been equal to the currying.

Of Cider we had but one specimen, made by Rev. Joseph Goffe, of Millbury, which is entitled to the premium of \$6. Although but one specimen of cider was this year offered, your Committee are satisfied of the utility of continuing the encouragement of the Society to the making of an improved quality of this cheap and wholesome beverage. It is believed there is no branch of the farmer's business so imperfectly understood and managed as that of making cider, and none in which a little addition of pains and expense would yield so great a profit. The example of Newark is one which ought to be pressed upon the consideration of our farmers. While ordinary cider sells at from one dollar to one dollar fifty cents, theirs meets with a ready sale at from five to six dollars per barrel, while the extra expense is not probably more than fifty cents. By following the same course which they have pursued, we might soon rival them in the excellence of our liquor; and the capital of our State would no longer need to be dependent on New-Jersey for any portion of the cider which they use.

Of Butter there were fifteen parcels offered, most of which was very excellent, and your Committee experienced some difficulty in deciding on their relative quality; but were finally unanimous in adjudging the first premium, of \$7, to Stillman Fitch, of Sterling, and the second premium, of \$5, to Rufus Hastings, of the same place. Another parcel of

ferred by Sylvester Brigham, of Southborough, claimed our particular attention, and for a time divided our opinions between it and the two former parcels. In consideration of its excellence your Committee would have recommended a discretionary premium, had not the rules of the Society forbidden it on an article for which a specific premium is offered.

Of Cheese, twenty lots were offered, all of which, with one exception, were from the town of New-Braintree, and were such as to fully maintain the previously acquired reputation of that town for good dairying. After a careful examination, your Committee finally concluded to recommend that the first premium, of \$10, be awarded to William Tufts, and the second, of \$5, to Capt. Joseph Green.

In addition to the manufactures for which premiums were offered, a considerable variety of articles were presented for exhibition, among which were some Hats of superior workmanship and fine stock, manufactured by J. P. Kettell & Co. of Worcester—a double-barrelled Gun, on a new construction, which is discharged by percussion, made by E. C. Fisher, of Lancaster—and a Saddle, which attracted much notice, by Edward M. Burr, of Worcester.

Pliny Snow, of Leicester, exhibited some fine Card-Wire, believed to be superior to the average quality of that imported. Considering the importance of this article in all our manufactures of Cotton and Wool, and believing that the time has arrived when it may be made as good and as cheap as it can be imported, and that by the manufacture of it at home a large sum may annually be saved to the country, we have concluded to recommend a discretionary premium of \$3 for this specimen, and would respectfully suggest to the Society whether it may not be a suitable object of a standing premium.

Two Cast-Iron Ploughs, were exhibited by Oliver Witherby, of Worcester. These ploughs are fast superseding those of the old construction, and are believed to be well worthy of the patronage of the farmer.

Not the least interesting part of the exhibition which has come under our immediate notice, is the variety of articles presented by the wives and daughters of our fellow-citizens, which afford favourable specimens of their taste, their industry, and their skill, which cannot be particularly enumerated at this time, but among which the following articles attracted our particular attention, viz.—

A number of Grass and Straw Bonnets, of which two of a good quality, manufactured from the *poo palustris*, or fowl-meadow grass, in imitation of the Leghorn, are thought worthy of the encouragement of the Society, and for which we recommend a discretionary premium, of \$3, to Celinda Billings, of Lunenburg.

A beautiful Straw Bonnet, of the Dunstable braid, was exhibited by Clarissa Newton, of Westborough, and another by Capt. Charles Parkman, of the same place. Seven others, nearly equal in quality, were exhibited by Mary Brown, of Lunenburg. Several others, which shewed great ingenuity, were also exhibited, some of which were entitled to particular commendation; but it was believed by your Committee that the expense of the manufacture would not warrant the general introduction of it.

Some very beautiful Work-Baskets, or Indispensables, manufactured from straw, were exhibited by Eliza Bryant and Mary E. Rockwood, of Worcester.

A box of Wreaths and Artificial Flowers, rivalling in workmanship and beauty the best imported ones, were offered by Mrs. D. G. Wheeler, of Worcester, and her children, whose taste and ingenuity have heretofore been noticed by the Society.

We were also much gratified with the appearance of several Card-Racks, made of sea-shells, which were superior to any thing of the kind which has before fallen under our notice. As they were not regularly entered, we were unable to ascertain to whom the Society is indebted for their exhibition.

In conclusion, your Committee would observe, that although they may not, in all cases, have done exact justice to the relative claims of individuals, yet they would assure them that they have honestly exercised their best skill and judgment to come to that result; and those that may feel disappointed should recollect, that where *all excel* it is difficult to determine who is *best*.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. EARLE, *Chairman pro temp.*

Committee on the PLOUGHING MATCH.

Joseph Thayer, of Uxbridge, *Chairman*; Rufus Porter, of Worcester; Cyrus Leland, of Grafton; John Whitney, of Princeton; Asa Pond, of Petersham.

THE Committee on the Ploughing Match have the honour as well as great satisfaction to inform the President, Trustees, and all the members of this Society, that, in lieu of a *race match*, we have this day had a Ploughing Match, which has done great honour to all the competitors, and much credit to this Institution. Although improvement has always been the professed object of our Ploughing Matches, your Committee are well aware that, heretofore, all the operations of the competitors have had reference principally if not wholly to time. This has been owing, in *some measure*, we think, to the competitors' not fully and distinctly understanding the way and manner in which they were to obtain the highest wages for their labour. Instead of commencing and pursuing their work in a farmer-like manner, and attending to all the parts which might aid and assist in perfecting the whole work, the end of the land and the furrow which would cover the most ground were the objects which the competitors had in view; as if two or three seconds of time would warrant them a *premium*. But, on this occasion, your Committee are happy to say that, in their opinion, *great advancement* has been made since the last year in this most valuable and important part of good husbandry; and we think that the great increase of competitors, in addition to the improvement made, is conclusive proof of the necessity and utility of attending to this branch of our Exhibitions.

Seventeen Ploughmen with their teams entered the field, and, being well convinced of the truth of the sentiment advanced by Cato, when he said the first rule in husbandry was to *plough well*, they commenced their work and ploughed two acres and one eighth of an acre, in 8 hours and 25 minutes, which is much less than one half of the time usually occupied by those farmers who are regardless of improvement, and mispend their time in the use of worn-out teams and worn-out ploughs. And whoever will take the trouble, or rather the pleasure, of minutely examining the ploughing this day, will generally find a great uniformity in the depth, width and *lay* of the furrows, which is equally beneficial to the succeeding crop and to the ease and advantage of the husbandman in tilling his farm.

The work was all so well and so thoroughly done, that, while your Committee congratulate the Yeomanry of the County of Worcester on the extraordinary improvement both as respects the work and manner of doing it, they found the duty of discrimination, and of giving preference, to be very arduous and exceedingly difficult.

Seventeen competitors, being called to order, formed a circle and cast lots for their sections, the ground having been previously divided into sections of an eighth of an acre each.

- Lot No. 1. Jonas Johnson, of Worcester—work performed in 41'.
- Lot No. 2. Levi Lincoln, of Worcester—work performed in 31'.
- Lot No. 3. Seth Hastings, of Mendon—work performed in 28'.
- Lot No. 4. Silas Dudley, of Sutton—work performed in 34' 30".
- Lot No. 5. William Eaton, jr. of Worcester—work performed in 39'.
- Lot No. 6. Stephen Marsh, jr. of Sutton—work performed in 33'.
- Lot No. 7. Stephen Marsh, of Sutton—work performed in 29' 30".
- Lot No. 8. Royal T. Marble, of Sutton—work performed in 30'.
- Lot No. 9. Lewis Chapin, of Worcester—work performed in 29'.
- Lot No. 10. Luther Whiting, of Sutton—work performed in 31' 30".
- Lot No. 11. Samuel Sibley, of Sutton—work performed in 32' 45".
- Lot No. 12. Henry Wheeler, of Worcester—work performed in 35' 30".
- Lot No. 13. Henry Bullard, of Holden—work performed in 28' 36".
- Lot No. 14. Sumner Cole, of Sutton—work performed in 26'.
- Lot No. 15. Ward & Ricⁿ, of Worcester—work performed in 26' 15".
- Lot No. 16. John Jacobs, of Sutton—work performed in 26'.
- Lot No. 17. Asa Cummings, jr. of Sutton—work performed in 25' 45".

The Committee awarded as follows:—

- First premium to Asa Cummings, jr. of Sutton, \$10—himself Ploughman, \$5—Davis Cummings, Driver, \$3.
- Second premium to Sumner Cole, of Sutton, \$8—Daniel Woodbury, Ploughman, \$4—John Sherman, Driver, \$2.
- Third premium to Royal T. Marble, of Sutton, \$6—himself Ploughman, \$3—Russell Marble, Driver, \$1.
- Fourth premium to Seth Hastings, of Mendon, \$4—Elias Rawson, Ploughman, \$2.

Your Committee have to remark, that the ground furnished by our President, who is always so ready and so willing to aid and assist in rendering this anniversary both interesting and respectable, was remarkably fine, and well calculated to give a fair trial; and for this, together with the excellence of the work of his team, although we do not award him a premium, he has our best wishes that his land may return him a rich harvest.

Per order.

JOSEPH THAYER.

